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311 The newest development, found in the Northwest, especially in Sinkiang, is the partial industrialization of those areas which are the sources of coal, oil, gold, iron, alum, quartz, gypsum, nitrates, salt, and as recently reported, uranium.

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563 The non-Chinese peoples of the Northwest are not only outnumbered but also outweighed in economic and political respects. For more than two thousand years, the Chinese have been ruling those areas (with short interruptions as far as Sinkiang and Chinghai are concerned), even though they never had more than a few garrisons stationed in frontier areas. Those garrisons made it possible for a thin stratum of Chinese officials to rule the areas on the top level. On the lower level, the indigenous peoples and tribes governed themselves - under the supervision of the Chinese viceroys or governors and their bureaucracy.

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175 The general policy of the Chinese government in Peking was to make use of the existing form of governmental institutions of frontier areas like Sinkiang, Chinghai, and Inner-Mongolia. In Sinkiang (prior to 1884 it was called "Hui-chiang," i.e., Muslimic Dominion), two types of local government had existed: the Muslimic type and the Mongolian type. The Northern and Northeastern part of Sinkiang, where the Mongols were the dominant inhabitants, had the same governmental institutions as Outer and Inner-Mongolia, namely, banners ruled by dzasaks, who were appointees of the Emperor in Peking. The Republic of China tacitly recognized their ranks and interfered very little with their functions. Only Communist China deprived the nomad aristocracy of their titles and rights.

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563 The Muslimic communities were ruled by Baks with various ranks: the Ak'im Bak, "local governor"; the Ishkhan Bak, "assistant governor"; the Shang Bak, "collector of revenue"; the Qazi, "judge"; the Kukbashi or Mirabu Bak, "superintendent of agriculture"; Yuzbashi, "hundred-men-leader"; Onbashi, "ten-men-leader"; etc. All the local Baks were appointed by the emperor or later on by the president of the Republic upon the recommendation of the Imperial or Republican governor, although it must be stated that some governors of Sinkiang, Chin Shu-jen and Sheng Shih-ts'ai, ruled and governed the province without asking Peking for the consent of appointments.

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175 Besides the Chinese civil service there existed Chinese military staffs and detachments, centered in Ili, Urumchi, Kulja, Chuguchak, Kashghar, Sining, Su-chou, Lan-chou, etc. Relay stations provided communication between the government in Peking and the frontier areas. Maintaining the effectiveness of the means of communications was an important duty of Chinese officials. Only since 1930 have some automobile highways been built, and the Communist regime, in cooperation

146 FROM T'AOCHOU TO LANCHOU FU [CHL

484 with the goods of the Mahomedan merchants of Ho Chou.

202 We passed the night at Ch'ingshui, where we met a military officer sent up to escort us down into China Proper who calmly informed us with little apparent interest that China and Japan were at war. This news afterwards turned out to be a local echo of the crisis existing between the two countries two months previously, and the incident shows that even today momentous events on the coast have comparatively little interest for the inhabitants of the far interior. Below Ch'ingshui the path continues through winding gorges with the foaming torrent hemmed in by forest-clad mountains for 20 li to the likin barrier of T'ung-men Kuan, where the gorges debouch on to an open cultivated valley. This is one of the numerous "Gates" leading into and out of China Proper on her western and northern frontiers. There is a bit of an old wall to be seen, perhaps a portion of the Kokonor loop of the Great Wall. From here to Ho Chou, a distance of 60 li, a good highway runs down the fertile valley past numerous Mahomedan villages. We did not see the valley at its best, because it poured with rain during the whole march, and the clay soil was turned into a slippery morass; at one place, crossing a nullah by a narrow causeway, one of our mule litters containing a cook was overturned into the ditch, and remained literally upside down with the eight legs of the two mules pointing skywards for some time, till they were hauled out in that position, no damage being done.

361 Ho Chou (new name T'aoho Hsien) is a pleasant little
634 city lying in a most delightful valley plain, from five to six thousand feet above the sea, sheltered by high mountains, and as fertile as a garden. The mountains to the west and south-west (T'aitzu Shan) are very bold and rocky, and carried a good deal of snow at the time of our visit (middle of July). Ho Chou itself consists of a small Chinese town with large and busy Mahomedan suburbs, containing many fine mosques and seminaries. It is the centre of Mahomedan power and influence in the province, and General Ma An-liang, who actually lives a day's journey or so away near the Yellow River, has a fine residence in the suburb. The Chinese magistrate in the city seems to have little to do

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BEYOND THE GREAT WALL

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returned, and the Military Guard of Kiayükwan having bade us 'good-bye and a pleasant journey,' we started off in good spirits; nevertheless, silence soon fell on us when we realised we had turned our backs on China, and were ourselves literally without the Gate. 000

We were now to learn by personal experience that the cold of the desert nights is only equalled in intensity by the midday heat. Water being unobtainable for very long distances, the strain is too great for the animals during the day, consequently all stages must be taken by night. It was 5 p.m. when the many-storeyed tower of the fortress finally disappeared beyond the horizon, and the undulating expanse of the Gobi was all that was to be seen lying around on every side. Desert travelling is a memorable experience. Immediately after sunset an icy breath steals along the earth's surface, and instantly the carter dons his heavy sheep-skin coat. Silence instinctively falls on the party as the twilight swiftly closes in, and the horses settle to a steady stride. Thanks to the telegraph poles with their single wire, we still have *one* link left with the outer world; so we cannot miss our way. 132 484

Generally, once in the night, we passed a string of carts from distant Turkestan, or we heard, a good half-hour before they actually appeared, the clang of bells belonging to a caravan of at least fifty camels, which shuffled past us grunting, soon to be swallowed up in the surrounding shadows. Some time in the night we heard the jingle of merry bells peculiar to one traveller, and all would cry out: 'Here come the Maïs.' Unlike all other riders, the Courier comes at a sharp canter, his heavily-laden horse in a lather. At each stage a fresh horse and messenger are waiting to carry on the bags. He is always cheerful, always friendly, and full of information. According to his account it is we who are 494 202

1 [Between Kiayükwan and Yümen--Analyst]

THROUGH JADE GATE

202 responsible for the weight of his pack, and he was
 361 overheard to say: 'If it were not for those Christians
 my load would be light! If I am not carrying books
 for them, then it is letters; and if they have no letters,
 then it is books!' The far-distant barking of dogs
 sometimes warns us of an encampment, and we can
 just catch the gleam of the fire glowing like a jewel in
 the velvet darkness. In the daytime the low, sand-
 coloured tents are indistinguishable from the universal
 tawny shade of the ground, and being pegged down very
 low they seem to melt into the general outlines.

000 We took the journey very slowly, stopping at each
 little walled town or village, to hold meetings, visit the
 homes, and distribute Christian literature. Three days
 brought us to the city of Chikinpu. Had we been
 choosing its name, however, we should have called it
 'Pain Sec,' in memory of a certain little place in the
 Rhone Valley, where the bread is said to be made only
 three times a year. At Chikinpu the date for baking
 must surely have been near, for the bread we ate was
 certainly three months old! The kindness and hospi-
 tality with which we were received were most refreshing
 and greatly added to our enjoyment of the trip. Here
 we also met a gentleman who had been one of the
 Suchow enquirers, but whose official duties had now
 brought him to this far-off spot. Through his courtesy,
 on arrival we found our inn rooms already engaged, and
 in one of these the unusual luxury of a table and two
 chairs. He told us an interesting incident which had
 naturally much impressed him. Many years previously,
 in witness of a vow, he had set up a tablet in one of the
 shrines of a famous rock temple a few miles away from
 Chikinpu. Quite recently, hearing he was again in the
 neighbourhood, the priest-in-charge had hurried down
 in alarm to inform him that the tablet had unaccount-
 1[Between Kiayüknan and Yümen - Analyst]